

On March 6, 2000, the *Washington Post* reported that “only half of the top 24 federal agencies have won ‘clean’ opinions from the government’s inspectors general for their FY 1999 financial statements, according to a preliminary assessment by congressional and administration officials.”

Printing Support for Census 2000

Working with the Census Bureau, GPO provided the printed forms and other products needed to conduct Census 2000, the national head count of more than 275 million people in 120 million households in the U.S., including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Island areas.

For nearly 2 years, GPO used its competitive printing procurement program to place orders throughout the Nation’s commercial printing industry for the products that were used to conduct the decennial census.

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Overall, GPO awarded more than 80 contracts totaling more than \$65 million to print 398 million questionnaires and other public use forms, not including other printing for promotional purposes, use in the Nation’s schools, and for other census activities.

Contracts were awarded for short form and long form versions of the mail-out questionnaires, update/questionnaires, and enumerator questionnaires. GPO also let contracts for the printing of “be counted” questionnaires, advance letters, reminder cards, language assistance guides, and other questionnaires and public use forms. The mail-out and “be counted” questionnaires were printed in 6 different languages (English, Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Tagalog), and foreign language guides in 49 different languages were produced to assist in filling out the printed questionnaires. GPO also contracted for the production of “large print” guides for the forms. In addition, GPO awarded contracts for a variety of advertising,

promotional, and educational materials for use in increasing public awareness of the census.

This work was performed by dozens of private sector contractors in 17 states, including California, New York, Ohio, New Jersey, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Maryland, Kentucky, Kansas, Tennessee, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Alabama, Florida, Texas, and Missouri, as well as the District of Columbia.

The Census Bureau estimated that printing the 398 million forms required 14,000 tons of paper and 15,000 gallons of ink. This work, like all printing performed under GPO contracts, required the use of recycled paper and vegetable oil-based ink.

2000 Edition of the “Plum Book”

GPO prepared the 2000 edition of *United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions*, better known to Federal job seekers as the “Plum Book.” The book was made available to the public the day after the Presidential election.

Issued every 4 years after the Presidential election, the “Plum Book” includes a listing of those positions throughout the Federal Government that may be subject to non-competitive appointment. There are over 7,000 positions listed in the 2000 “Plum Book.” The “Plum Book” is published alternately by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs and the House Committee on Government Reform. For 2000, the responsibility fell to the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, and the “Plum Book” was issued as Senate Print 106-54 with a plum-colored cover.

Printed copies of the “Plum Book” were offered for sale by GPO. GPO also made the information available free of charge online via **GPO Access**, at www.access.gpo.gov/plumbook/2000/index.html.

New GPO Style Manual Prepared

During 2000, GPO prepared the 29th edition of the *United States Government Printing Office Style Manual*, the first update to this authoritative guide since 1984. The new edition was released in December 2000 in print and online formats at www.access.gpo.gov/styleman/2000/style001.html. The *GPO Style Manual* is issued under the authority